persuade housing agencies to incorporate low-cost buidling materials and construction techniques appropriate to their regions.

(ix) HUDCO also extends architectural design and consultancy services to the housing agencies which are keen to use cost-effective and appropriate construction techniques in their schemes.

(b) and (c) Government has no plans to undertake the supply of low-cost building materials through the Building Centres. However, as autonomous organisations, these Centres are free to undertake such activities on their own initiative. Higher Central Government grant (limited to a maximum of Rs. 5 lakhs) is available to the Centres undertaking such commercial activities.

(d) There has been a rise in the cost of production of cement due to increase in input and overhead.costs, hike in freight rates, etc., and this is one of the reasons for increase in the cost of constmction, impacting housing activities.

(e) There is no statutory control on price and distribution of cement, and Prices in different markets are determined by market forces. However; Government is providing necessary support, such as allocation of coal, railway wagons, etc., on priority basis, for increasing production and despatch of cement from surplus to deficit areas in order to strengthen the market mechanism for chedthig abnormal increase in prices.

Scheme of Infrastructural Development in MEGA Cities

*331. SHRI O.P. KOHLI Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Centrally sponsored scheme, called Scheme of Infrastructural Development in Mega Cities, has been introduced from the year 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how much money has been paid Ky the Centre for the development of cities under the Scheme city-wise during 199394, 1994-95 and so far in 1995-96;

(d) whether no funds have been given to Government of Delhi under the Scheme during the above period; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps taken to release the money to Government of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) The details of the scheme are as follows:—

(i) The Scheme is administered through the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment and is applicable to Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

(ii) Funds will be channelised through a nodal agency at the State level, Central and State Government would contribute in the ratio of 25 : 25 as grant, and the balance 50% is to be met from external sources.

(iii) The nodal agency will constitute a revolving fund and will provide finance to various implementing agencies, based on project appraisal by lending institutions, and adopting a judicious mix of grants and loans. The objective is to create and maintain a fund for development of infrastructural assets on a sustained basis.

(iv) Urban sector projects eligible for funding include water supply sewerage, drainage, sanitation, land development, solid waste management, etc. Long-term capital intensive projects will not be covered under the scheme.

The mix of projects will include remunerative, user-charge based and basic services projects.

(vi) tfee project proposals are to be cleared by a sanctioning committee constituted at the State level including Central Government representatives.

(c) The amounts of Central funds released under the scheme are given below:

(Rupees in crores)

Name of Mega City	8th Plan Out lay -	Central Share released	
		1993-94	1994-95
Bombay	200	20.1	16.1
Calcutta	200	20.1	16.1
Madras	100	15.1	11.1
Hydera-bad	100	15.1	11.1
Bangalore	100	0.1	20.1
Total	700	70.5	74.5

For 1995-96 a sum of Rs. 84 Crores is provided and no money has been released so far.

(d) and (e) The reasons for not including Delhi under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Infrastructural Development in Mega Cities include: (i) Delhi is the National Capital and the scale of resources for infrastructural development: land and finance available to Delhi from the Government of India is much higher compared to the funding provided to the five Mega Cities under the Scheme of Infrastructural Development in Mega Cities and (2) Delhi is the Capital of Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi having a legislature and it receives sizeable State Plan funds unlike other Mega Cities included under the Scheme.

Slow Implemenation of IDSMT

*332. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the slow pace of implementation of the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT);

(b) the steps being taken to enhance the pace of progress in this area;

(c) the budgetary allocation for the purpose during the current year; and

(d) the trend of utilization of the same in earlier years?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The guidelines for implementing the IDSMT Scheme have recently been revised and circulated to all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The salient features of the Revised IDSMT Scheme guidelines are enclosed as Statement. *(See* below)

(c) The budget alocation for IDSMT Scheme during the current year is Rs.25 crores.

(d) During the first three years of the Eigth Plan (1992-97), the budget allocations made for IDSMT Scheme and Central Assistance released to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are as folows:—

Year	Budget Allocation	CentralAssistance released
	(Rupees in crores)	
1992-93	15.00	11.60
1993-94	22.00	11.50
1994-95	25.00	24.11

From 1979-80 till 1994-95, 749 towns were covered under IDSMT and Central Assistance for project implementation amounting to Rs.230.17 crores released. Till deccmber 1994, the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have reported a total expenditure of Rs.326.81 crores under IDSMT.

Statement

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR THE SCHEME OF INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM TOWNS

The Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) aims at the development of selected regional growth centres with infrastructure and service facilities. The objective is to enable them to emerge as centres of economic growth and employment opportunities and arrest migration from rural areas and small towns to large and metropolitan cities. The revision of IDSMT guidelines was necessitated on account of two major factors